

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE'S
SAND AND GRAVEL PROGRAM AND THE NEED TO ADEQUATELY FUND
THE PROGRAM**

On this 6th day of March 2008, IN CONSIDERATION of the duty of the Outer Continental Shelf Policy Committee to provide policy guidance to the Secretary of the Interior on issues related to management and development of mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS):

WHEREAS, the purpose of the OCS Policy Committee is to provide the Secretary of the Interior with advice related to the agency's discretionary functions under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, including leasing, exploration, development and protection of OCS resources; and

WHEREAS, the OCS Policy Committee established the OCS Hard Minerals Subcommittee to advise the Department of the Interior on the identification and development of marine mineral resources in an environmentally sound manner; and

WHEREAS, there are critical needs for OCS sand and gravel for coastal states and communities to mitigate storms and hurricanes, protect life, forestall erosion, mitigate property damage, protect shoreline infrastructure, provide improved recreation, and protect valuable wetland resources; and

WHEREAS, much of the U.S. coastline is experiencing erosion causing beach and coastal restoration, and infrastructure and wetland protection to continue to be critical issues for coastal states and communities; and

WHEREAS, since 1995 the MMS has provided 28 million cubic yards of OCS sand for 22 coastal projects, restoring 125 miles of the Nation's coastline to protect critical military installations, National and State parklands, and billions of dollars in infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Minerals Program of the MMS has depended on geologic and environmental information, developed through partnerships with coastal states, to identify and make available OCS sand and gravel deposits suitable for beach restoration and coastal infrastructure and wetlands protection; and

WHEREAS, these state/federal partnerships are critical to assist states and local communities in identifying sand and gravel resources and evaluating the environmental impacts of using these resources; and

WHEREAS, the MMS has spent over \$11 million for marine mineral environmental studies directly associated with sand and gravel resources, is at the cutting edge of adopting new technologies for understanding sand and gravel resources, and is a leader in providing information for understanding the consequences to shorelines from using OCS sands and gravel; and

WHEREAS, the Sand and Gravel program until 2005 was funded at \$2.5 to \$3.0 million annually from general MMS funds, including \$500,000 to \$600,000 for cooperative sand and gravel evaluation projects with 14 coastal states; and

WHEREAS, because of MMS budget constraints, continued funding for the Sand and Gravel program is now in jeopardy; no funds for the Sand and Gravel program were available beginning in FY 2006; and

WHEREAS, adequate funding for the Sand and Gravel program is critical to the success of the program and state and local beach restoration and shoreline protection projects;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT:

1. The OCS Policy Committee urges the Secretary of the Department of the Interior to recognize that the Sand and Gravel program should be a priority of the Department and considered as part of the core mission of the Minerals Management Service.
2. The Sand and Gravel program should be funded at level funding or a minimum of \$5.0 million in FY 2010.
3. The Secretary of the Interior is encouraged, through legislative staff, to advise Congressional members, and especially the members of the Conference Committee of the importance of the OCS Sand and Gravel program.
4. The Secretary of the Interior, through the Minerals Management Service, should include the Sand and Gravel program as a specific line item in the Department's Fiscal Year 2010 budget request.
5. The Secretary of the Interior, through the Minerals Management Service, should determine adequate funding to meet the needs of coastal states and communities, and request those funds in its Fiscal Year 2010 budget. However, funding should not be less than \$5.0 million for the Sand and Gravel program in Fiscal Year 2010.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution is forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior.

Resolution passed unanimously.